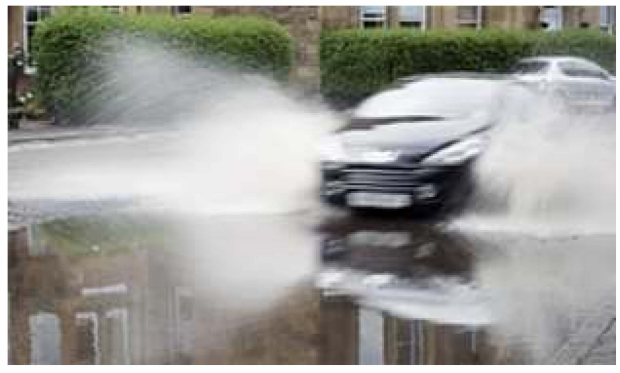
April to end on a stormy note

26 April 2012 - April has been a very unsettled month and looks set to end on a stormy note across the southern half of the UK.



Our forecasters are expecting a mixture of sunshine and showers to continue in all parts as we head into the weekend, with heavy rain and strong to gale force winds across much of the UK on Sunday.

An intense area of low pressure is forecast to approach the south of England on Saturday night and Sunday bringing up to 50mm of rain and winds gusting in excess of 50mph in exposed areas.

Dan Suri, Deputy Chief Forecaster at the Met Office, said: "We are expecting pretty miserable conditions across much of the UK on Sunday. The heavy rain may lead to localised flooding while the strong gusty winds will make travelling conditions difficult."

The Environment Agency said: "The Environment Agency is advising people to be alert for disruption from possible localised flooding across parts of the South West, South East and Midlands on Sunday. In preparation for the very wet weather, Environment Agency officers are out monitoring river levels, checking defences, and removing any blockages that may increase the risk of flooding.

"We are likely to issue flood warnings and would urge people to keep up to date by checking our website , calling our Floodline on 0845 988 1188, or looking out for updates on our facebook and twitter pages."

Further north, much of Scotland looks set to see a good deal of dry and fine weather over the weekend.

Stormy weather for Sunday (YouTube transcript) (PDF, 73 kB)

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Contact information

Met Office Press Office: **+44 (0)1392 886655**

E-mail: Press Office

Met Office Customer Centre: **01392 885680**

If you're outside the UK: **+44 1392 885680**

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Stormy weather for Sunday

Dan Suri – Deputy Chief Forecaster

It's been a very unsettled April across the UK and for southern parts of the country at least it's set to end on quite a stormy note. What's going to happen is a deep depression is going to form out of this cloud you can see on the satellite picture moving towards Iberia and France, this deep depression looks set to develop later on Friday and Saturday and that will move vaguely towards the UK. There's a little bit of uncertainty just where it goes, it's either going to track northwards towards the UK into the north sea or it's going to track into Biscay and away westward into the Atlantic ocean. Little bit of uncertainty there but either way whatever happens we're set for a really rather wet spell of weather and potentially quite windy spell of weather as well. We're looking at the first associated rain getting into East Anglia, south eastern England, southern England later on Saturday afternoon or Saturday evening and then that rain spreading north westward and northwards across much of the rest of the UK during Saturday night or Sunday. The far north of the country will probably escape that rain and stay dry on Sunday, may areas though having a pretty disappointing Sunday, a lot of cloud and a lot of rain, some of it heavy and also quite windy as well, certainly strong winds for many areas, perhaps even inland gales and the south coast will probably see the worst of the weather, scope for severe gales, perhaps even gusts of 50 or 60mph.